

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-05 EB-04 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

STR-01 CEA-01 FRB-01 XMB-02 SCI-02 COME-00 DRC-01

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R 151740Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4165

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1856

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WG, GW, GE, UR

SUBJECT: FRG SPOKESMAN ON BERLIN MATTERS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING'S OCTOBER 14 REMARKS TO BERLIN PRESS CLUB ON CURRENT PREPARATIONS FOR CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S FORTHCOMING MOSCOW VISIT WERE APPARENTLY INTENDED TO IMPRESS ON SOVIETS AND GDR SENAT-FRG UNITY ON BERLIN ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. BOELLING INFORMED PRESS CLUB AUDIENCE DURING BERLIN VISIT OCTOBER 14 THAT, "IT IS URGENTLY DESIRABLE" THAT PRIOR TO SCHMIDT DEPARATURE FOR MOSCOW, GDR SHOULD TAKE SOME POSITIVE ACTION ON COMPULSORY CURRENCY EXCHANGE. SUCH A STEP WAS NOT ONLY A NECESSARY PRECONDITION TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND EAST BERLIN, BUT ALSO WOULD HAVE
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"FAVORABLE IMPACT" ON NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE IN MOSCOW.

BOELLING DESCRIBED GDR UNRESPONSIVENESS TO SENAT AND FRG REQUESTS TO REDUCE COMPULSORY CURRENCY EXCHANGE AS "DELAYING ELEMENT" IN ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND HONECKER. HE ADDED THAT SENAT AND FRG WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT ON CURRENCY-EXCHANGE MATTER.

3. BOELLING HINTED THAT DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEST BERLINERS AND WEST GERMANS ON COMPULSORY CURRENCY EXCHANGE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, BUT SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT, A RETURN TO BASIC CURRENCY EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WAS NECESSARY. HE DENIED THAT INTER-GERMAN "SWING" TRADE AGREEMENT CREDIT WAS "BIG HAMMER" IN THIS REGARD AND CALLED IT ONLY A "USEFUL INSTRUMENT" AMONG OTHERS.

4. BOELLING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BERLIN TOPICS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN SCHMIDT TALKS WITH BREZHNEV BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT IN FRG'S BEST INTERESTS TO MAKE "CLASSIC LINK" BETWEEN BERLIN PROBLEMS AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION.

5. BOELLING REJECTED ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN ALLIES NOT TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL FEDERAL OFFICES IN BERLN. HE CLAIMED TO BE UNAWARE ANY SUCH DESIRE ON GERMAN SIDE. POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION (CULTURAL) IN BERLIN, HE STATED WAS "POLITICALLY A VERY SENSITIVE MATTER" WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED WITHIN CONTEXT OF QA.

6. BOELLING CHARACTERIZED CHARGES THAT SCHMIDT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN BERLIN AS "ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE". IT WAS NOT CHANCELLOR'S STYLE TO MAKE CONSTANT STATEMENTS ABOUT BERLIN. IF SOMETHING WAS TO BE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER, PROGRESS REPORTS ON EVERY LITTLE STEP WERE NOT NECESSARY AND ABSENCE OF SUCH REPORT DID NOT MEAN THAT A "SECRET POLICY" WAS BEING CONDUCTED.

7. COMMENT: SENAT CHANCERY HEAD HERZ INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT DURING GAUS-NIER DISCUSSIONS, GDR REPS HAD BEEN GIVING IMPRESSION THEY THOUGHT SENAT VIEWS ON COMPULSORY CURRENCY EXCHANGE WERE NOT SHARED BY FRG. ACCORDING TO HERZ, BOELLING'S CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMENTS AT PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON WERE DESIGNED TO DISABUSE EAST GERMANS OF THIS NOTION AND TO EXPRESS SENAT-FRG SOLIDARITY. IT WAS ALSO SIGNAL TO GDR THAT A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE REDUCTION OF CURRENCY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR WEST BERLINERS ONLY. BOELLING WAS ALSO USING THIS FORUM TO TELL SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS THAT UNTIL CURRENCY EXCHANGE PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED, IT WOULD REMAIN STUMBLING BLOCK TO BETTER RELATIONS.

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